

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02704 111340Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 AID-20 NIC-01

CU-04 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 096257

P 111220Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7483

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2704

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SU

SUBJ: KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY STUDENT SIT-DOWN STRIKE

REF: KHARTOUM 2543 AND 2562

1. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY KHARTOUM TAKEN OVER MORNING NOV. 10 BY STUDENTS IN SIT-DOWN STRIKE. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION AS GOS TAKING RESTRAINED RESPONSE, BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY END RESULT WILL BE RECLOSING OF UNIVERSITY.

2. STUDENTS SIT-DOWN STRIKE: COINCIDENT WITH DEPARTURE NIMEIRI TO NAIROBI, KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY (KU) STUDENTS TOOK OVER CAMPUS MORNING DEC. 10 TO UNDERLINE THEIR REFUSAL ACCEPT CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY AUTHRITIES WHEN UNIVERSITY REOPENED LAST MONTH. TAKEOVER APPARENTLY OCCURRED WITH LITTLE DISTURBANCE, PROFESSORS AND STAFF SIMPLY LOCKING OFFICES AND LABS AND LEAVING CAMPUS, WHILE EXTRA SUPPLIES BREAD QUIETLY BROUGHT IN. AS OF MORNING DEC. 11, GATES TO CAMPUS BARRICADED WITH FURNITURE, WITH STUDENTS MANNING BARRIERS WRAPPED IN BLANKETS AFTER ALL-NIGHT VIGILS.

3. RATIONALE: KU ATMOSPHERE UNSETTLED SINCE REOPENING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KHARTO 02704 111340Z

LAST MONTH. WHILE VICE CHANCELLOR REPORTEDLY MANEUVERED

MANFULLY PRESERVE KU INTEGRITY BETWEEN SCYLLA REGIME'S
OPPOSITION STUDENT POLITICAL ACTION AND CHARYBDIS OF
STUDENT ANTI-REGIME FEELING, HE FAILED WRING SUFFICIENT
CONCESSIONS FROM EITHER SIDE. HE TOLD GOOD SOURCE DE. 9
THAT, ALTHOUGH GOS HAD RELEASED 562 STUDENTS JAILED IN
SEPTEMBER, AUTHORITIES REFUSING SET FREE REMAINING EIGHT.
CURRENT SIT-DOWN STRIKE MOTIVATED BY FOLLOWING: (A) DESIRE
OBTAIN RELEASE ALL STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS JAILED AS RESULT
AUG-SEPT DISTURBANCES (AT LEAST ONE PROFESSOR NOW SERVING
THREE-YEAR SENTENCE IN COMMON JAIL); (B) INSISTENCE KU
STUDENT UNION BE PERMITTED RESUME OPERATIONS; AND (C)
CONSIDERABLE BASIC ANTI-REGIME SENTIMENT ON PARTY
AT LEAST SOME STUDENTS (OF THE 50 PERCENT TOTAL WHO WE
ESTIMATE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN STRIKE).

4. GOS ATTITUDE: AFTER INITIALLY JAILING, DISMISSING AND
SUSPENDING LARGE NUMBERS STUDENTS LAST FALL, REGIME'S
RECENT GREATER FLEXIBILITY (REF B) MAY HAVE BEEN
ERRONEOUSLY INTERPRETED AS WEAKNESS. GOS SO FAR HANDLING
PRESENT STRIKE WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL, LIMITING RESPONSE TO
ISOLATING STUDENTS AND PREVENTING ANY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS.
ALL TRAFFIC BEING ROUTED AWAY FROM CAMPUS WITH BRIDGE TO
KHARTOUM NORTH WHICH FEEDS EAST EDGE OF CAMPUS CLOSED.
WORKERS EMPLOYED IN AREA LIKewise BEING HELD BACK SEVERAL
BLOCKS FROM CAMPUS. CUT OFF ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLIES TO
CAMPUS REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED. SPECIAL SECURITY PRE-
CAUTIONS NOT APPARENT BUT WE UNDERSTAND POLICE IN FULL RIOT
GEAR IN NEARBY POLICE STATIONS THROUGHOUT NIGHT AND MORNING
DEC. 11. WE ASSUME TROOPS LIKewise ALERTED.

5. OTHER SCHOOLS QUIET: CONSISTENT WITH RESTRAINED APPROACH,
GOS HAS SO FAR NOT CLOSED OTHER SCHOOLS WHERE SOME SYMPATHY
ACTION COULD OCCUR.

6. COMMENT: LATEST STUDENT ACTION REFLECTS BOTH CON-
TINUING MILITANT STUDENT-REGIME STRUGGLE AND CONTEST FOR
INFLUENCE WITHIN STUDENT BODY ON PART MOSLEM BRETHREN (MB)
AND COMMUNIST ACTIVISTS. VICE CHANCELLOR SOUGHT
UNSUCCESSFULLY PLACATE STUDENTS WITH ARGUMENT NEW RESTRICTIONS
(REF A) ONLY LIMITED CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR. ORIGINAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KHARTO 02704 111340Z

DEADLINE FOR STUDENT ACTION DID PASS BUT, MEANWHILE,
COMMUNIST STUDENT POSTERS APPEARED WITHIN CAMPUS,
CHALLENGING MB LEADERSHIP OF DISSOLVED STUDENT UNION,
BLAMING IT FOR FAILURE AUG-SEPT DEMONSTRATIONS AND CALLING
FOR NEW STUDENT COALITION INCLUDING COMMUNISTS. REKSCTING
CHARGE, MB REPORTEDLY STAGED REFERENDUM DEC. 9 ILGWSWHICH 60-65 PERCE
NT OF STUDENTS ENDORSED MB. LATTER, IN
APPARENT SHOW OF STRENGTH, THEN ORGANIZED STRIKE EVEN

THOUGH REFERENDUM WAS NOT ON ISSUE OF CLOSING CAMPUS WHICH
SAME MAJORITY MIGHT HAVE DISAPPROVED. WHILE EXTENT
SUPPORT STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE CAMPUS UNCLEAR, IT DOES
APPEAR LIKELY THAT AT MINIMUM FINANCIAL HELP PROVIDED
FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD REPORTEDLY NOW ON CAMPUS.
PSWATIVE "NATIONAL FRONT" (LOOSE ALLIANCE OF OLD PARTIES
AND OTHER ELEMENTS OPPOSING NIMEIRI REGIME) REPORTEDLY
WERE TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC SYMPATHY MARCH DEC. 10 BUT SO
FAR NOTHING HAS MATERIALIZED. WHETHER MAJOR CONFRONTATION
WILL DEVELOP UNCLEAR, BUT IT SEEMS INCREASGFGLY LIKELY
THAT REGIME WILL RECLOSE KU FOR BALANCE ACADEMIC YEAR
(I.E. UNTIL JULY, 1;74). BREWER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, CIVIL DISORDERS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PENAL INSTITUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO02704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731232/aaaaaxot.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 2543 AND 2562
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY STUDENT SIT-DOWN STRIKE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SCUL, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005